



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-009
Date Opened: 02/22/2006
Principal Investigator: Stephen McHenry
Subject: Fuel Tank Punctures

Manufacturer: DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Products: 2004 & 2005 Chrysler Pacifica
Population: 217,147

Problem Description: Fuel tank punctures from road debris.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	10	10
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	120	120

*Description Of Other: Field Reports.

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Stephen McHenry *SMH*

Date: 02/22/2006

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 02/22/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/22/2006

Summary: On September 13, 2005, ODI opened an investigation (PE05-050) of fuel tank punctures by road debris in model year (MY) 2004 through 2005 Nissan Murano vehicles. In a January 9, 2006 letter, Nissan notified ODI of its plan to recall approximately 209,000 MY 2003 - 2006 Nissan Murano vehicles to correct a deficiency in fuel tank shielding from road debris. A total of 38 tank puncture incidents had been reported to ODI and Nissan when PE05-050 was closed on January 31, 2006.

During PE05-050, ODI requested information concerning fuel tank placement, ground clearance, shielding and puncture experience from several manufacturers for peer vehicles of the Nissan Murano. In a December 15, 2005 letter to ODI responding to a request for peer data for approximately 217,000 MY 2004-2005 Chrysler Pacifica vehicles, DaimlerChrysler provided information concerning 13 consumer complaints of fuel tank puncture due to road debris involving 10 unique vehicles, as well as, 5 other complaints of fuel tank puncture from an unknown source that may have been road debris.

SMH
2/22/06



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Summary continued:

DaimlerChrysler also provided information concerning 121 field reports of fuel tank puncture by road debris involving 120 unique vehicles. DaimlerChrysler stated that the field reports were required by the corporation for a period of time for all tank replacements for any cause. The rates per 100,000 vehicles for both the complaint and field report data were significantly higher for the Pacifica vehicles than for any of the other peers that ODI studied during PE05-050. ODI also notes that the Murano and Pacifica were the only vehicles for which information was requested under PE05-050 that did not have shielding on the front region of the fuel tank.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the frequency, scope and safety consequences of the alleged defect.